



The

GARZETTE

November, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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The PRESIDENT'S PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Welcome all you new members to the GARS and I hope your stay will be long and full of fun and excitement in the months ahead. I gather that many of you have found our club attractive for whatever your interests are and I know you will find most of our members who are active with us helpful and understanding.

The club is booming as usual and interest is high with the repeater sites taking on a new fresh approach with Dave, AD4UU heading up the Bogan Rd bunch, and Jeff, KD4GPI heading up the Goshen Springs bunch. We made an attempt to get on the Lawrenceville tank on a windy Saturday with Randy, KR4NQ and Bill, KE4EIH doing the climbing. It was a very windy day so after a research of what is needed upstairs they came down and we have put it on the back burner for another climb later. Thanks guys. I understand that Dave, AD4UU had a bunch at Bogan Rd who included Marty, KE4MLH and Carlton, WA4ZUW as part of the crew with a half a dozen GARS members stopping by. So it looks like we have the spark back as long as there are people to come forward like that, it's a win, win, situation.

Speaking of sparks, Beverly, KE4VDI is heading up the GARS table at the Alford Hamfest which will have passed by the time this newsletter hits the streets but I did want to give Beverly a honorable mention as she can get a lot of people motivated in helping out.

Well it's off to the Christmas party on December 15th and those of you who haven't sent in your ten dollars for the event will be missing your chance to see a new bunch of faces from the Alford club. Please make an attempt to make this one to wrap up

the years events as there will be no regular club meeting taking place in December. You also need to get in your nominations for Ham Of The Year Award which is going to be a yearly thing with GARS. Your nominations have to be in by Novembers meeting.

John, KD6CLO has volunteered for the Membership Committee Chairman which I accepted. He will work with Jack, KS4LS who has been one of the finest people I know who worked hard and long at making his position very important to GARS and the new members. We all wish John a sincere good luck in his venture to keep the spirit Jack has put into this position alive and well. I am going to miss Jack running the program for me, he took on a challenge almost two years ago and ran with it. He turned the position into something that had spirit and he contributed many an hour to the newsletter and roster. He will stay on as long as it takes to help John get off to a flying start. Many thanks to you Jack for your efforts and hard work for a job well done.

Joe, AD4PZ our PR man has been getting himself more involved with family and other hobbies like Barbershop singing. Yes he is quite a singer I am told and he goes all over the country during competition times and his group has done quite well. Joe is one heck of a guy you just can't help liking from the start. He will pitch in every chance he gets to promote GARS and the hobby. Next time you are at a meeting take the time to go over the photo books Joe has put together and you will quickly see the talent that this man has.

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Ron Davidson,
K4HRB
GARS

HAM of the MONTH
by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Ron Davidson is a great example of a ham that started out as a teenager and has continued to be an active amateur radio operator for roughly 40 years. (which is amazing considering how young he looks). As you will see, he has done almost everything that can be done in ham radio.

Ron was born and raised in Indianapolis and went all the way through high school there. He attended Arsenal Technical High School and his main interest was ham radio. The school was actually an old US Army Arsenal campus and had nearly 7,000 students. The club station was W9HFQ (High Flying Quarterback).

The school had a large club station and two of the teachers taught both code and theory. Ron recently worked one of the teachers on 40 meter CW. Unfortunately, both of the teachers are now silent keys.

Ron was a teenager when he got his first amateur radio license. His first license was a Novice and his call was KN9ATS and 2 months later he upgraded to General and became K9ATS. (note the name of his high school. What a coincidence.!)

Ron's first station was a home-brew transmitter with a 6L6 driving an 807 (only Judd Whatley is old enough to remember what that means). The transmitter was CW only, crystal controlled which is all that a Novice could use back then and the key was a military surplus J38 straight key. The receiver was a Hallicrafters SX-28 of pre WWII vintage and the antenna was a 15 meter folded dipole using

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The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII format by email to ichapman@intergate.net or by posting a private message to Ike Chapman on the *GARS* conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM formatted disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

***GARZETTE* EDITOR**

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The tedious and time consuming job of maintaining *The GARZETTE* mailing list is performed monthly by Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, KS4LS. Joe Biddle, AD4PZ assists with collating, stapling and mailing, and digitally scans in the photo and artwork seen regularly in *The GARZETTE*.

Our thanks to them for all their help in producing *The GARZETTE*.

The GARS address is:
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♦♦♦

JOIN GARS

Membership dues for 1995-1996 are:
\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
\$35.00 for Family Memberships
Half price for seniors and students
Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or
Call Jack Herndon, KS4LS at 995-0438
for more information about joining GARS.

SKN 1995
by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Believe it or not, it is time again to get ready for Straight Key Night - 1995. As most of you know, the ARRL sponsors a really fun event every New Years Eve. This is not a contest and no awards are available from the ARRL. The purpose (we think) is to have as many hams as possible get on the air and use their straight keys on the CW bands.

For the last two years, GARS has sponsored the GARS CW round table during this event. Last year a certificate was awarded to the favorite home brew key. The entries were truly awesome and pictures of many of the homebrew keys are now in the club photo archives. You may remember that Dean, AD4OD, won with a key made from his son's Erector Set. The key was named "Tappenzee Key". Those of you who know where the Tappenzee bridge is in New York can appreciate Dean's subtle naming.

This year we are giving two certificates. The are:

1. favorite key
2. favorite transmitting device

The key can be homebrew, commercial, military or antique. The transmitter can be all of those categories and can include a QRP transmitter. We would like for you to both the key and the transmitter during the GARS roundtable.

The GARS roundtable will begin at 9:00 p.m. local time on 7.140 MHz. We are hopeful that frequency will give us the best coverage and allow the most number of GARS members to participate. The format this year will be a roundtable format as opposed to the net format used last year. We will try to make at least two turns around the circle before closing down the GARS event.

Judging of the keys and transmitters will be done as a part of the January GARS meeting and everyone in attendance (members or not) will have a chance to cast a ballot. So start making your plans now and we will see all of you at SKN 1995.

♦♦♦

**GARS
GROWS
GREATLY
BY GOLLY!**

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

Five new members were voted in at the October meeting!

Charles Carter, KT4S
Chris Dobbins, KC4ODW
Jong (John) Kim, KE4MLF
Young Lee, KE4MLD
Gordon Macie, KS5M
William (Bill) Mentzer, KE4WSI
Lowrey Rouse, KM4Z.

Associate Member

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air' -ED

Notice to all GARS members:

Looking to upgrade or improve your code speed? Steve Burel, AD4LY will prepare code practice tapes to GARS members, free of charge, wishing to upgrade. The basic text is in QSO format, but can be modified to suit your needs and concentrate on your weaknesses. Just sent Steve a blank tape along with a SASE complete with proper postage (usually 2 stamps). Include a recorded message on the tape indicating your requirements, desired code speed, and other information necessary to facilitate your needs.

Mail to:
ARS AD4LY
Steve Burel
518 Pine Hill Circle
Lawrenceville GA 30245

CW, MODE OF CHOICE PART 4

by Duane Hanson, KD4KCR

This is the final installment of a four part series on CW, intended to help you feel more comfortable using the CW portion of the bands. First we covered a little history on the origin of CW and how to get started by answering another ham's CQ. Then we covered tips and tricks on calling CQ, and discussed many of the abbreviations and shorthand commonly used in CW. And last month we covered more CW shorthand, and tips and tricks of DX CW contact.

This month, we will see the differences in working local and interstate contacts, versus the DX contact we studied before. We will also discuss joining and working CW roundtables and nets, a great facet of amateur radio.

A local contact is a bit different than a DX CW contact in that the other station may want to find out all about you. This is where your "cheat sheet" (see part 1) really comes in handy.

For a First contact

Listen for someone calling CQ (seek you). Look for a good strong signal that you suspect won't fade away before you can complete the contact.

Write down his/her callsign on your "cheat sheet" and transfer it to

your log after the contact. With the callsign written down, you will be better prepared to send it back to the calling station.

Call back at a speed closely matching the calling station if not even a tad slower. If the calling station is a bit too fast for you, return the call at a comfortable speed for YOU. The other station should match your sending speed.

Send your info as on your cheat sheet. Remember that the first time you go back to a station calling CQ, you send his call once - and your call twice. This way you can be certain that he gets the most important part of the contact right the first time.

He cannot send you a QSL card unless he has your call right!

Let the fellow know that this is your first HF CW contact as he will be very excited about that and will understand when you make mistakes.

Hang in there and enjoy the moment, not that the following contacts will be old hat after this one but you will remember this first one for many years.

Be sure to log in the time and date of the contact in Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). If you don't already have a 24-hour clock set to UTC time, get one. It will save you a

lot of time in converting time for the log. Remember when recording the date that if the time UTC is greater than 2400 hrs, it is tomorrow's date. Also be sure to log both RST's (the value that you gave him, and the value that he gave you), and of course log his callsign. You will also want to record the frequency (or band) that you heard him on and also the mode, CW of course!

Directional CQ's

A directional CQ is one that specifies in the CQ call an area, state or type of station that you are calling. These calls are not advised, as many times it just causes unnecessary QRM. Nothing makes you seem more useless than to hear a stateside station calling over and over "CQ DX CQ DX", especially after you hear this for some time and the guy never does hear a DX station. He would do much better if he would simply tune around and find a DX station calling CQ. I hear a lot of DX stations calling CQ DX but then again, to most foreign stations, everyone else IS DX! As far as getting that needed WAS station, I would do much better getting on a WAS net and calling for a station in my needed state than all the "CQ AK CQ AK" (seek you continued on next page

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Alaska) I can send. Also a CQ Hawaii would sound like "seek you laugh" (CQ HI). Is this fellow looking for the latest joke or what?

Want to have a bunch of fun on CW?

I've been a member of a roundtable format group for some time, and enjoy it immensely though it took some getting used to. Since I had no one to tell me how to get in on a roundtable, I had to do a lot of listening! Finally I jumped in, and was warmly accepted and included. You may find CW roundtables more cordial than their SSB counterparts. It's just too tiresome to be discourteous on CW, so most folks using this mode just don't take time to be unfriendly. My Roundtable "hangout" is 3.688 MHz in the evenings from about 9:00 p.m. till 11 or 12 p.m.. I have had opportunity to meet some of these folks eyeball to eyeball, and it has been great. The gang is even having a get-together up in West Virginia this fall, and I plan to be there. There will be folks there from Texas to New York to Florida and all points in between. It would be great to see you there!

Roundtable procedures (no rules, just advice):

Join in only after you have listened, and decide that you might have something to add or ask. To break in, you need to have at least copied two call signs in a row. This is so you know who will send after, and who you are to pass it to. It is best though to list all the callsigns of those participating on a piece of paper in column form leaving a bit of space between.

Don't break in sending at a speed that is faster than you can copy. Most folks will slow down to match your speed but be prepared to be challenged. If you copy comfortably at 10 wpm, check in at about 8 wpm and increase from there. It is interesting to hear a slow station check in and then hear all on frequency slow down to accommodate him, great bunch of guys!

To break in simply wait for one station to turn it over to the next in the roundtable and send BK (break), and wait for a GA (Go ahead). You have to be pretty quick on the trigger, but most stations will be running QSK (Full Break in) and will be able to hear you even between the elements of each character. Once you get the GA (go ahead), send DE YOUR-CALL and the prosign K to turn it back to the station. He should then put you up next in the rotation. The group I hang out with generally will give everyone's callsign with a "/" separator ending with DE HISCALL.

Your call should be at the top of that list. The first time you break in, be prepared for the station to pause in the conversation to chat with you to find out more about you and get a signal report. Try to break in a place in the rotation where you have no trouble copying the station that it is being passed to.

CW Nets

How about nets? Well there are many, and the ARRL Net Directory, available at your local ham radio store is a valuable source of all registered nets. Here you can find traffic handling, rag chew and WAS nets. All are run a bit differently - but all will welcome you to check in. For example, there is a "slow" net on 3.688

each week day evening at 8:00 p.m. local time. These are great places to hear a variety of fists and habits. Everyone pretty much checks in the same way so it is very predictable and great practice, both copying and sending.

There is a file on the Scientific Atlanta BBS that will give you much more info on this net. Hope to see you there also and stick around after the net for the great roundtable on the same frequency.

Lists of abbreviations, Q-signals and RST definitions are available everywhere in hamdom., including "The ARRL Operating Manual" and on the inside cover of most commercial logbooks.

I hope you have enjoyed our tour of CW operating techniques, and give it a try yourself.



Ham of the Month

Continued from Page 1

300 ohm TV twin lead. All of this activity occurred in the late 1950's.

After high school, Ron moved to Chicago and attended the University of Chicago where he pursued a BS in physics. During this time he also spent 6 years in the Air Force Reserves (to keep from being drafted into the Army during the Berlin Crisis). The air force trained Ron as a communications monitor which meant that he spent hours and hours copying CW transmissions and passing what he copied off to an interpreter. For some reason, most of the transmissions were encrypted foreign military communications,

Ron had become very interested in DX during the great sun spot cycle that occurred during the late 1950s. In Chicago he was using a Gotham Vertical and some wire antennas. During this time he had a number of different rigs including a Drake 2B receiver and a Globe Scout transmitter.

After receiving his BS in Physics from the University of Chicago, Ron went to work for the Argonne National Laboratory in south Chicago and began working on his masters degree. He left Argonne and went to work for

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Monthly Club Meeting
October 19, 1995
Meeting MinutesIn attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF;
Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD;
Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer
Charles Evans, WA4QYY ; Activities Manager,
David Adcock, KA4KKFThe meeting was called to order by President
Gould at 19:00 local time at Captain Billy's
Seafood House in Duluth.All members and visitors were asked to introduce
themselves. There were a total of 65 persons that
signed the meeting log.Howie introduced Neil Foster, KC4MJ who gave
the program for the evening. Neil's program was a
slide show on his trip to Switzerland where he op-
erated 4U1ITU station in Geneva and his travels
through the Swiss Alps.After the program the business meeting resumed
with the minutes for the September meeting ap-
proved as published in *The GARZETTE*.Charles Evans, WA4QYY gave the treasurers re-
port which was accepted as read.Howie reported on the vote at the past executive
committee meeting to proceed with the Goshen
Springs and Bogan Road sites for remote receiv-
ers. The Snellville site will be put on hold until the
construction has been completed there and the se-
curity issues can be resolved. Dave Livesay,
AD4UU has agreed to serve as coordinator for the
Bogan Road site and Jeff Harrison volunteered to
serve as coordinator for the Goshen Springs site.Jack Herndon, KS4LS presented seven applica-
tions for membership in GARS. A motion was
made and seconded to accept the applications as
presented, the motion passed without opposition.
The new GARS members are: Charles Carter,
KT4S; Chris Dobbins, KC4ODW; Jong (John) Kim,
KE4MLF; Young Lee, KE4MLD; Gordon Macie,
KS5M; William (Bill) Mentzer, KE4WSI; and Low-
rey Rouse, KM4Z.The meeting was adjourned by President Gould at
21:15 local time.

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 AT&T (actually Western Electric at the time) in Cicero Illinois. He was an Industrial Engineer early on and later got into management since it paid better. Ron remained with AT&T for the rest of his regular working career. (Having lived in Chicago at one time, the writer remembers when that particular plant was closed). The plant in Cicero was very large and had 27,000 employees. They manufactured everything needed by the Bell Telephone System long lines and local operating companies.

Ron was married to Jean (and still is) in 1963 and in the late 1960's had lived in Homewood and Downers Grove, Illinois. (Ray, KA9GJL, would be familiar with these Chicago suburbs). Ron got his Advanced class license in the late 60's.

As you can imagine, the Chicago area has always been a hot bed of amateur radio activity. Ron belonged to the Chicago 6 meter club and operated 6 meter mobile using old State Patrol equipment. He also belonged to the Chicago FM club which had one of the first amateur radio repeaters in the nation.

By the end of the 1960's, Ron had a complete Drake Line and mostly wire antennas. He especially like the V-beam type antenna. He had never owned a linear amplifier and worked mostly CW and chased DX.

Ron had 350 countries confirmed by the end of the great sun spot cycle of the 1950's. He says that it is amazing how many of those countries no longer exist. Ron like to work

contests (especially CQ World Wide) and set his own contest goals rather than chase the certificates.

Ron was transferred to Atlanta in 1972 to work at the new Western Electric cable plant that was built on I-85 near Levitt's Furniture (that was way out of town at the time). He moved to the Stone Mountain area and had a fairly good sized lot to put antennas on. He joined Atlanta Radio Club and Alford Memorial and was active on 2 meter FM. His call was changed call to K4HRB. He continued to use his Drake gear but over the next few years dabbled in Kenwood Twins and in the early 80's tried a Kenwood TS-830 as the WARC bands became available.

Ron said he enjoyed using different kinds of antennas and was partial to wire antennas. With his big lot he like the extended double zepp (dipole with gain). One of his memorable antennas was the famous Hygain Hightower vertical. He used a chicken wire ground radial system underneath it. Ron said he wished he had that antenna now to work the 160 meter band with.

In the late 80's, Ron got interested in Ten-Tec equipment. During the next few years he had the Omni-A, the Omni-D, the 580 Delta and the Corsair II. When Ten-Tec went digital, Ron decided to stay with the analog equipment and did so until 1994. (he said that equipment had discrete components that you could see without the aid of a microscope). He also became interested in restoring some of the older equipment during this time and rebuilt a complete Collins S-line for nostalgia.

Ron took the first AT&T golden parachute in 1989 and is still doing some consulting work from time to time. He got his Extra Class license in 1992 primarily due to the declining sunspots and a need to get to the lower 25 khz of 20 meters and get away from all the QRM. He never operated much phone and has pretty much used CW.

Ron got into mobile HF early in his ham career and in the 1960's had an Elmac AF67 and a Gonsci Receiver using a vibrator power supply mostly on 40 and 80 meters. Although he used some home-brew center loaded antennas, Ron's favorite was the famous Webster Band Spanner (the writer still has his BandsSpanner from 1964). As a result of some horse trading, Ron wound up with one of the very first Ten-Tec Scouts in the Atlanta area in 1993. It had been the prize at a local hamfest. He has recently acquired the new Alinco DX-70 for his mobile activities and will be able to work 160 through 6 meters with a single rig. He especially like the built in SSB and CW filters.

In 1994, Ron put a new Yaesu FT-990 and his first linear, an Ameritron AL811, in the shack. He also put a Force 12 Yagi on a tower built by club member Frank Deak, AF4Y. Ron had moved way out to Loganville in 1984 and had plenty of room to put up antennas without bothering the neighbors. Ron the says the linear and the beam were well worth the trouble. You really need an antenna that you can point and that is especially true at the bottom of a sun spot cycle.

Ron said he has done all kinds of interesting things during his long ham career including loading up a set of bedsprings just to see if it could be done. He also has held some 15 meter QSO's using a 100 watt light bulb as an antenna. He is looking forward to the forthcoming increase in sunspots. He likes to chase DX and do some contesting and thinks he may see how many certificates he can get to paper his wall with.

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Sharon Adcock
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Ham Of the Month

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In the late 1980's, Ron became interested in Amateur Satellites and operated on Oscars 10 and 13 using an Icom 432 and a two meter all mode. He used a Cushcraft circular polarized yaqi and all of his azimuth elevation rotation equipment was homemade. He still has the two meter all mode as well as six and ten meter equipment for satellite work. He is currently working on putting up new antennas for six and two meter satellite work.

Current interests include restoring old equipment including a recently completed Collins 75A4 which he obtained as a basket case. Ron has also complete the restoration of a Johnson Viking II which he no longer has and is looking for an old AM transmitter to rebuild. (the writer saw him at Shelby with a hand cart looking for old equipment, so he must be serious about it).

Ron plans to put a complete rebuilt nostalgia station a 1936 Gross broadcast rack that he has acquired. He says the rack is in mint condition and motivated him to put together a mint "old gear" station. Ron is still married to Jean who is a teacher in the Dekalb School System. She has mostly taught history at Stone Mountain High School. They have two grown daughters.

Ron was instrumental in keeping the GARS repeater on the air during a change in technical support several years ago and is always finding ways to help the club and club members keep their old equipment and computers operating. Be sure to look Ron up at a GARS activity and look for him on the CW bands. GARS is very fortunate to have a member like Ron who can pass on the fun and enthusiasm of a life time of ham radio activity.

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Presidents Pen

Continued from Page 1

know he is just as good a father and husband to his wife Rita and son Kevin because of the way he handles GARS matters. He has deep roots for

the hobby and is very outspoken at times but he loves the hobby very much and this shows. Thanks for all your hard work and efforts Joe we do appreciate you being on our team.

Ike, KE4GYM is off to a great start with the newsletter and is another example of the spirit in the GARS team. Ike and I met at a test session at Lawrenceville where he got his first amateur ticket. Other than noticing how big a man he was, which is not hard to overlook, I noticed that Ike was always wearing a smile and had a nice way about him. Little did I know at the time we met that our paths would cross again and very soon. I had not been very active with GARS although a member for a year or so I had not gone to a meeting. So off I went to the October 93 meeting and it was there I met Ike again. That October meeting was full of fighting and such carrying on that I wondered if I was in a ham club or a war. I saw Ike a few times more and it was not until the election time of 94 that I really saw Ike come out of nowhere with his volunteering for the Secretary position. Well folks from that day forward I knew and the whole club knew about Ike Chapman for he was a real spark volunteering to do every thing imaginable from radio demonstrations at Sam's Club to covering parades and schools. You name it and Ike volunteered. He also by the way did an outstanding job as Secretary. Could I be so lucky to have not only Ike but a whole bunch of people like David, KA4KKF as Activities Manager, Dean, AD4OD as Newsletter Editor, Charles, WA4QYY as Treasurer and Larry, KD4QFD as Vice President? You bet I could be lucky and boy did we work at it. But working with Ike is something special, he really cares about this club and it shows in his unceasing devotion to giving it more than his share of the load. Ike, many thanks from the boss we love you.

If you really want to make this club tick folks you got to get active. Do not expect a phone call from us unless we are looking for donations. I notice that we are getting more and more people interested in doing

something. What do you have to offer? We will take it no matter how small or insignificant it might seem to you. Of course we know that there are a lot of older hams who just can't do anything physical but don't let that ruin your day. You can come to some of our activities and sit and watch. Just your warm body is sufficient and if your voice box works we can put you to work talking about ham radio which is what you love most of all right? So come on folks join in the fun be active.

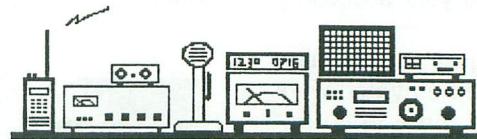
Have you been looking at the new rigs lately? not only are they expensive but they have a lot to offer with the new DSP technology. Some are using DSP in the IF strip which is supposed to give better separation of noise from signal, some are using it in the audio stages and every one is making claims to having the best rig on the market. You better watch yourself and get a good checkout of what you want before you buy because with the bucks involved, you don't want to make a bad move.

I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be the president of a club of this size. GARS has grown so fast and it seems like it was just yesterday that we had 70 or so members. We lost a bunch at last renewal, but it is still growing. I thought we might have 300 by this years end but that may not come to be. Even so, it has been a blast seeing all the new faces and meeting you all. I am starting to lose track of some of the new ones but give me a chance and I will soon know you.

Come to the next meeting and meet some of your fellow members. Get to know a few at a time and you will see why GARS shines all over the place. We just have a great bunch of hams in this club. There are lots of family here and we are proud of it. Help your neighbor out if you can, some can't make it to the meeting because of transportation problems. Find out who they are and make an effort to bring them if your in the same neighborhood. You will brighten up someone's life. See you at the meeting.

◆◆◆

This Old Shack



by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Hopefully you enjoyed last month's chapter on Handie Talkies in the Ham Shack. In this month's article, "Building Around the Shack", we'll look at mounting environments and cabinets that you can use to hide your equipment away.

The way we house and protect our precious ham equipment is as important as the layout itself. We might find importance in how accessible everything is or perhaps how each piece of equipment complements each other. Whether it is for operating convenience or just the best way to 'SHOW OFF' our choice gear, when it's all done we probably want to keep it that way for a while.

Your shack may have just a Handie Talkie, or a wall full of great equipment such as those pictured often on the cover of 'CQ' magazine. While doing research for this series, numerous ham shacks were visited and no two ham shacks were alike. Quite a lot was learned about what types of equipment are being used, how they are being used, and how each piece of equipment is displayed.

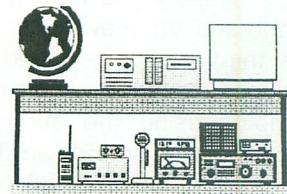
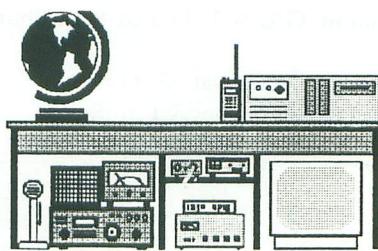
If you haven't prepared your Christmas list yet, here are some wish list items of the equipment that hams from around the world challenge themselves to make room for, to mount, and to display:

HF transceiver, Rotor Control Box, Amplifiers, Antenna Tuners, Tuner tuners, Speakers, Computers, Computer Monitors, Printer, Keyboard, Barney (for the kid), Microphones, Telephone, Power Supplies, VHF/UHF rigs, Handie Talkies, Scanners, Television, Keyers, Lamps, Maps, Charts, Books, Logs, etc.. As you can see there are quite a number of possibilities with a list of equipment such as this.

Most ham shacks will consist of at least of a desk. Your desk may be a big antique roll top desk, a metal office desk with drawers or a work-bench like structure. Which ever you may have this will be the foundation in which your collection of gear may be organized. Some people have gone to various furnishing centers to purchase ready made countertops and even hollow filled doors for a desktop. You can use a couple of filing cabinets at each for support.

Shelves can be very important in allowing you to stack gear in high rise fashion utilizing desk space effectively and allowing you organize your equipment within arms reach. There are commercially available shelving kits at most hardware stores ranging from wire structured units, and unfinished pine to beautifully laminated boards with supporting angle brackets. If you are handy with a saw and have adequate carpentry skills you could fabricate an elaborate enclosure complete with hardwoods and brass.

Shelves can be hung from the wall in typical design or you could use something that is very popular known as the "Desktop Shelf". The desktop shelf is nothing more than a series of horizontal shelves of varying heights and widths supported with an occasional vertical infrastructure.



This type of shelf can be made with removable support pins so that shelf heights may be changed. This allows you to change the shelf configuration as your accessories change. There are end supported shelves too. These are just a board laid horizontally and supported on each end by whatever you have that is accommodating. It could even be a stack of beautiful rustic red bricks.

Trying to create or maintain clear space on your work surface may always be a challenge, but if you have a computer keyboard, mouse, key and/or keyer then one great way to reclaim work space on your desk or bench is to build an accessory hide-a-way.

There are a few ways to do this:

1. You can elevate your entire desktop area.
2. You can hide your accessories under some of your equipment.
3. You can hide your accessories under your desktop.

The first way mentioned is by elevating the entire (or partial) surface of the desktop. Do this by using a series of three to four inch thick end supports directly on the desktop with a large piece of plexiglass, safety glass or wood on top. Slide your keyboard or station accessory between the glass and the desktop and put the rest of your equipment on top. With this setup you can look through the

Continued on Next Page

This Old Shack

Continued from Page 9

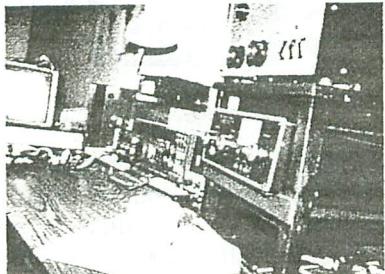
glass and still operate your accessory or keyboard.

The accessory garage is similar to the above described elevated work surface except that a three sided garage (two sides and a top) is built around the keyboard or accessory. Equipment can still be set on it and to use the accessory you back it out of the garage and 'drive away'.

The third mentioned 'under the desktop' parking garage can be another choice using the above 'Garage' attached upside-down to the underneath side of the desktop with the station accessories tucked away inside. There are also commercially available keyboard supports that slide out and swivel from underneath as well.

If you look around the house you would be surprised what you can find useful to the shack that otherwise might not be elsewhere. Look around hamfests too! For just a few dollars you might find some test rack cabinets that could provide a home to some of your treasures. Dean (AD4OD) found an old public address console used for a school somewhere that has turned into a wonderful place to mount his rigs and accessories. It has a sloped front and a bank of switches that he uses to control numerous shack functions. Hmm...I wonder if NASA has got-

ten rid of all those desktop consoles you used to see from the Apollo missions?

**Tip of the Month**

Utilize old furniture. This is the shack of Ron Davidson, K4HRB - Ron has a well laid out shack consisting of the new and the old. His beautiful Collins 75A1 AM receiver (not pictured), compliments his shack very well. TIP! Notice at the far right how his amplifier and tuner is arranged. This particular 'rack', used to be a small telephone table. All he did was shorten the legs - you can see how accommodating and practical it became. Thanks for the tour and ideas Ron!

If you have any ideas for future articles for This Old Shack let me know by sending ideas to: Joe Biddle on the Scientific Atlanta BBS or email to jbiddle@lanier.com or phone at (770) 963-4316.



You and your family are invited to join the GARS and Alford Memorial Club Members for a Holiday Celebration of "A Ham Radio Christmas" at the Bethesda Park Sr. Center
Friday, December 15, 1995 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

A traditional holiday buffet dinner will be served from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Dinner reservations must be received no later than November 30th. Mail reservation form below with checks payable to GARS in the amount of \$10.00 per person to: GARS, P. O. Box 88, Lilburn, GA 30226.

Reservations For:

Print Names & Call Signs

Bethesda Park Sr. Center is located on Ronald Reagan Parkway, 2nd exit from Pleasant Hill Road.

GARS**Ham Of The Year**

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

I would like to remind all GARS members that it's time for nominations for the GARS Ham Of The Year award. The winner is awarded with a plaque inscribed with his/her name. The announcement of this year's HOY will be at the Christmas party on December 15. You can nominate someone for this award by giving you nomination to any member of the GARS executive committee. Nominations must be received by the end of the November club meeting. The person nominated for this award should meet the qualifications listed below:

The GARS Ham of the Year should be someone who has exhibited devotion, dedication, and meritorious service to and on behalf of the GARS and amateur radio, and has contributed greatly to the advancement of the GARS and amateur radio during the past year.

The award is decided by vote of the GARS executive committee based on nominations received from the membership. All members of the executive committee are excluded from consideration for this award.



Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Ever wondered about how a repeater was set up and how it functioned? Boy, are you in luck. GARS just happens to be setting up two remote receiver sites for our repeater. This is your chance to get in on the ground floor and see how these things are put together. Of course, while you are standing around watching all this happen, you may be asked to secure a rope, hoist a tower or dig a hole. That's a small price to pay for all the first hand knowledge you will gain about repeaters. Right? Right! So when you hear one of the coordinators asking for help with a repeater project, jump in and say "I'll help!". You don't have to let them know that you are really there to learn. That can be your secret.

Code class for fall 1995 has begun on Monday nights at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GeeJACK for short). If you are working on the code this is a great way to learn it right the first time. If you are not careful you could wind up having to relearn the code at

each test speed. Duane, KD4KCR, will show you the proper way to learn it right the first time and more importantly, how to have fun doing it. You'll learn more than just how to pass your test. Duane will give you all the ins and outs of how to work CW nets and other contacts on the radio. It's definitely worth your time.

I'm still looking for anyone interested in an Antenna Workshop. Let me hear from you soon (995-5159) and I'll set it up with Larry, KD4QFD, before the weather turns too cold. Also, I've heard from John, KD6CLO, that there may be a Packet Radio Workshop coming up in the future. Be sure to listen to the Tuesday night net for any details. It will be a good chance to see what packet is all about before you go out and spend those hard earned dollars on unfamiliar equipment.



More Pickett's List

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

I only received two additions to my list of "regrettable" phrases not normally heard on the Amateur Radio Bands. Please add these to the list that I know you have already posted in a prominent place. They are:
"motion lotion"
"work twenty"

Keep those cards and letters and email coming! !

QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 014 ARLS014
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington,
CT September 27, 1995
To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS014

ARLS014 Crash kills flyer/ham

Reinhard Furrer, DD6CF, a German astronaut who took part in the last successful mission of the space shuttle Challenger, died in early September in a plane crash, according to an Associated Press report. He was 54.

Furrer and the pilot of a 1944 Messerschmitt 108 were killed when their refurbished World War II plane crashed into a field after takeoff at an air show at Berlin's Johannisthal Airport.

Furrer was one of the first German astronauts to work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the third German in space. He helped operate Spacelab D1, a West German-financed payload aboard the October 1985 Challenger mission that was the first purely German research mission in space



GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)

Detach and Mail

Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ____ / ____ / ____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
 Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ -
 Address: _____ Work-Phone: _____ -
 City/State/Zip: _____ Fax-Phone: _____ -

Additional members for Family Memberships

CALLSIGN

CLASS (circle 1)	BIRTH DATE	ARRL Y/N	LIFE?Y/N
E A G T+ T N	/ /	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]
E A G T+ T N	/ /	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]
E A G T+ T N	/ /	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]

Check Interests

[] -Class instruction [] -Field Day operation [] -Repeater maintenance [] -GARS club booth staffing [] -Community events [] -Emergency [] -Administrative [] -Fund raisers
 [] -Other

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30
 \$25.00 for Individual Memberships
 \$35.00 for Family Memberships

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31
 \$12.50 for Individual Membership
 \$17.50 for Family Memberships

From Jan 1 to March 31
 \$6.25 for Individual Membership
 \$8.75 for Family Memberships

Type of membership [] -Individual ARRL Member?
 [] -Family Life?
 Half price dues available for seniors and students

Y/N
 Y/N

Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226



METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday- 2:30PM- N Atlanta ARRL-VEC- Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Want Swap, Sell & Info - GARS
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Packet Net - GARS
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC.Net
Wed	146.65-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30)
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS meeting will be at CAPTAIN BILLY'S SEAFOOD, on Pleasant Hill Rd west of the Gwinnett Place Mall on the 3rd Thursday, November 16th, Pre-meeting fellowship buffet starts at 5:00, meeting begins at